



**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS  
Minutes  
March 21, 2008**

**Members Present:** Nancy Bobo, Jane Borst, LaMark Combs, Kelly Hancock, Ron Koch, Jan Mackey, Troy McCarthy, Barb Merrill, Maureen Schletzbaum, LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Debra Sixta, Carrie Sodders, Mary Stevens, Janet Gartin for (Shanell Wagler)

**Excused:** Kyla Alba, Daryl Beall, Scott Beall, Mary Jane Brotherson, Angela Burke Boston, Gina Greene, Andrew Hall, Carolyn Nelson, Pablo Quintanilla, David Van Horn, Brian Wilkes

**Staff:** Julie Curry, Barb Khal, Kelly Schulte, Lisa Sharp, Susan White, Dann Stevens

**Guests:** Marissa Schletzbaum, Sally Nadolsky, and Sonni Vierling

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**Call to Order:**

Troy called the meeting to order and introductions of Council members took place. Quorum was established later in meeting.

**Approval of November Minutes/Troy McCarthy:**

Troy entertained a motion to have the January and March minutes approved at the May meeting as quorum was not established for approval of minutes.

**Family Story Maureen and Marissa Schletzbaum:**

Maureen shared her family's experience of having a daughter, Marissa, with Down Syndrome. She explained how Early ACCESS helped their family. She also told how her husband created a crawling mechanism which helps children learn to crawl and is still used by physical therapists today. Marissa told her story, sharing about her favorite class, Science because she likes to work in the lab. She plays in the band and is on the cheerleading squad. Marissa would like to attend Iowa University when she graduates from high school.

**Executive Committee Update/Troy McCarthy:**

The Executive Committee did not meet as members worked on the Memorandum of Agreement.

**Lead Agency Update/Birth-21 IDEA Procedure Manual/LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl and Julie Curry:**

Mary Stevens continues working with LauraBelle developing the Early ACCESS section of the Statewide AEA Procedure manual for IDEA Parts B and C. In an effort to make it

user-friendly, the procedures will follow the process that families and providers experience from referral through IFSP meetings. Infrastructure-type information (personnel standards; data collection, etc.) will follow. A final product of the Birth-21 Manual will be ready in July 2008 with training and technical assistance to follow.

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#### **Implications of Medicaid Rule Change/Dann Stevens:**

Dann Stevens (Department of Education) and Sally Nadolsky (Department of Human Services) shared information about the federal CMS Interim Final Rule of Targeted Case Management change, effective March 3, 2008. DHS will be held to both the rules and guidance CMS put out. The rule change states there will be only one targeted case manager per child. The family makes the choice which person will be their Targeted Case Manager. This person is expected to manage all Medicaid programs for that family and address wider scope of needs.

Council members were asked to divide into small groups to discuss the new rule and the implications for Medicaid's new regulations. Do you want to attach their input? I believe Susan typed it up for Dann.

#### **Memorandum of Agreement/LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl:**

The Signatory Agencies continue to meet to commit to programs and services for Early ACCESS birth to 3 years old. The agencies working together are; Departments of Education, Human Services, and Public Health, and Child Health Specialty Clinics. The representatives have been meeting with Thomas Mayes, DE Legal Consultant, to work through the legalities and meet the law requirements. The duration of the agreement is five years.

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LauraBelle discussed the resource commitments for each signatory agency.

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#### **1<sup>st</sup> Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative/Sonni Vierling:**

Sonni presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Five project background. The initiatives builds on lessons learned from ABCD II. Sonni discussed the guidelines for identification of developmental, social, emotional and behavioral concerns. The Iowa Child Health and Development Record forms are used as part of a child's health maintenance visits during the period from birth through age 5. The core purpose of 1<sup>st</sup> Five is to build partnerships between physician practices and public service providers to enhance high quality well-child care. 1<sup>st</sup> Five supports assessing social and emotional developmental skills of infants, toddlers and young children and includes screening for parental depression, family stress and autism. The relationship of the 1<sup>st</sup> Five initiative with the EA system was discussed.

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#### **Public Policy/LaMark Combs:**

LaMark attended a follow up meeting to the September 2007 early childhood diversity conference and discussed issues on lack of communication with case workers, case managers and family members.

#### **Service Coordination-Signatory Partners/Barb Khal and Kelly Schulte:**

**Barb reported that last year's new EA state funding enabled Child Health Specialty Clinics (CHSC) to expand the number of service coordinators through the state. CHSC is targeted three populations of children: drug affected; born prematurely; and medically complex needs.**

Kelly shared a six month review of EA service coordination provided by Title V agencies. There have been a total of 46 referrals since implementation, 26 "active" Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and 52 Child Health Early ACCESS service coordinators. The Department of Public Health continues to supervise and make sure there is quality assurance. Implementation accomplishments include; high quality completion of IFSPs and Area Education Agencies and Child Health Service Coordinators report positive relationships. There are implementation concerns which reflect the turnover of Service Coordinators, overwhelming paperwork, lapse in time between training and referral and additional training and time allocation needs. Questions may be directed to Kelly Schulte at the Iowa Department of Public Health, 515-281-8284 or [kschulte@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:kschulte@idph.state.ia.us)

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#### **ICEA Committees/Troy McCarthy:**

- Parent Leadership: No report
- Governor's Report: No report
- By-Laws: No report
- Nominating: Finalizing list to report to Council in May
- Membership: No report

#### **Sharing of Activities/Council:**

Parents as Presenters Workshop Application are being distributed for the September 19 & 20, 2008 training. Anyone interested in attending this workshop, please notify [Susan.White@iowa.gov](mailto:Susan.White@iowa.gov) and she will provide you with the information.

There will be an all-day workshop on May 8<sup>th</sup> in the Iowa city area, Susan Peoples; a nationally renowned speaker will conduct the workshop on Down Syndrome. If interested, contact Troy McCarthy. [advocate@hadsa.org](mailto:advocate@hadsa.org)

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#### **Meeting Adjournment/Troy McCarthy:**

Troy motioned for the meeting to be adjourned and Council so moved.

#### **Upcoming Council Meeting:**

Friday, May 16, 2008 at Stoney Creek Inn